

days. No one knew that they were there. We threw food and water to them and then radioed their location to the U.S. Coast Guard who subsequently rescued them.

Is there any more prolife efforts that one could have than those of Brothers to the Rescue? Mr. Speaker, the downing of unarmed defenseless civilian pilots calls for a strong response. The President has taken some actions. He has had our ambassador move in the United States, suspending all charter flights, agreeing to move on the Helms-Burton legislation, increasing Radio Marti's penetration into Cuba. But that is not enough.

I expect the President to announce other measures in the days ahead. Among those measures I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, is to begin to limit all licenses for visits to Cuba, revoking the visas of the Cuban interest section here in Washington and making sure that we have a further economic embargo on the island against the regime, which is the only thing that they have understood to create change within Cuba.

#### THE DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this morning the headlines on the Congress Daily, the little newspaper that goes out on the Hill every day, says Senator DOMENICI recommends that the increase in the debt ceiling be used as leverage to make sure we get on a glidepath to a balanced budget. There were 160 of us, Mr. Speaker, as you know very well, that sent a letter to the President of the United States saying that we are not going to vote for an increase in the debt ceiling unless we do get on that glidepath to a balanced budget.

I brought this chart this morning to explain why it is so important that we insist to the full extent of our ability that we make changes in some of those entitlement programs, make some changes in those welfare programs that are leading us to pass higher and higher debt ceiling and more and more borrowing.

As my colleagues see on this pie chart, the bottom blue part of that pie chart that now represents 50 percent of the \$1.6 trillion annual spending is the welfare programs and the entitlement programs, the so-called mandatory spending, now using up half of the Federal budget. As a point of reference, I would just suggest that, if we look back to the year, for example, 1955, mandatory spending only represented 3 percent of the total Federal budget spending.

The Constitution of the United States says that Congress is responsible for controlling the purse strings. It is responsible for spending. But what

has happened in the last 40 years is Congress has given away that authority to legislation that says, if you meet these certain qualifications, of age or poverty or whatever, you are automatically entitled to these payments. It is no longer annual appropriation bills that are controlled by Congress. A majority in Congress can no longer control or reduce that spending that is using up 50 percent of this Nation's budget without the consent of the President.

So the question has been, how do you get a reluctant President that does not want to cut spending to make some of the changes in these welfare and entitlement programs? We have suggested that we are going to be as vigorous as we can in suggesting that, look, what causes most of the increased debt is the entitlement programs. Therefore, it is not only reasonable but they are inextricably tied to each other, the debt ceiling increase and changes in some of these welfare entitlement spending programs.

If my colleagues were to take a look at the other provisions of this pie chart, the green represents defense spending. Everybody agrees now that there has got to be a defense spending. In fact, the administration is suggesting that even now we might need a supplemental to cover the expenses of Bosnia. But the hawks and the doves, the Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, all of us agree on defense, there is little difference, a plus or minus 10-percent deviation on what the expenditures should be on defense.

So like the entitlement programs, most of defense is now on, if you will, automatic pilot. It is automatically a spending obligation of this country. What is also on automatic pilot is interest rates. So the interest on the national debt last year at \$270 billion represented the total budget of the United States just back in 1977.

This country, this Government, and the expenditures of this Government and this huge bureaucracy continue to grow out of control because politicians in Washington have found sort of an undercover way to expand the size of government without the safeguards and protections of individual citizens that do not want their taxes raised too high. That is by more and more borrowing.

Somehow we do not feel that that borrowing affects our lives. I stand here today to suggest to my colleagues very aggressively that not only is it immoral to pass on what we consider important expenditures today and make our kids and our grandkids pay for it, out of money they have not even earned yet, but it is also tremendously a negative factor in economic expansion. Government borrows almost 42 percent of all of the money lent out in this country. We are driving interest rates as high as 2 percent more than they otherwise would be.

Chairman Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, suggested that

if we can balance the budget, interest rates would drop 2 percent. If interest rates dropped 2 percent, he and other economists are saying this economy would take off like it has never taken off before in the history of this country and we would have more and better jobs and a stronger economy.

#### MAINTAIN THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUNG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the last 3 weeks, we had what is known as our district work period when we were back in our home States and our home congressional districts and had the opportunity to have forums and town meetings and meet with our constituents in a way that we really have not had the opportunity since August.

One of the things that the Democratic Members of the New Jersey congressional delegation did was to have an education express, where we went on a bus throughout the State of New Jersey from south Jersey to north and basically got opinions from both high school students and college students about the cuts in Federal education programs that have been proposed by Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership. I was amazed to see how many of these students were concerned and how many were going to be directly impacted by the cuts that not only are proposed in the Gingrich budget but also have started to take place because of the cutbacks in the appropriation levels that have passed this House.

As my colleagues know, since October for education programs, we have not had a regular spending or appropriation bill. Instead we are operating under continuing resolutions, one of which expires on March 15 and has to be renewed if these programs are going to continue this year. We estimate that the funding levels under the current continuing resolution, if continued at the same rate through the rest of this fiscal year, would result in an unprecedented \$3.1 billion cut in education funds, about a 20-percent cut.

I am hopeful that through the grassroots efforts of things like the education express and many of my colleagues coming back from this 3-week district work period, that we will be able to convince the Republican leadership that this level of cuts in education programs cannot and should not continue for the rest of this fiscal year because of the impact on students, on our young people and their education throughout this country.

Just to highlight a few differences between what the Republican Congress has proposed and what President Clinton and the Democrats have proposed on education, as many know, the national service program, or AmeriCorps,